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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,154	02/12/2004	Yu-Bang Fu	17657.162a	2153
22913	7590	12/31/2008		
Workman Nydegger 1000 Eagle Gate Tower 60 East South Temple Salt Lake City, UT 84111			EXAMINER CHEN, CHIA WEI A	
			ART UNIT 2622	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/31/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/708,154		FU ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	CHIA-WEI A. CHEN		2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34,54,56-59 and 61-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34,54,56-59 and 61-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/16/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 34, 54, 56-59, 61-67 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 56 and 57 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 56 and 57 depend from canceled claim 55. These claims will be analyzed as depending from independent claim 34. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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5. Claims 34, 54, 56-59, 61, and 63-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki (US 6,101,339) in view of Takami (US 5,034,769).

Claim 34, Miki teaches an apparatus comprising:

- An external image capturing apparatus (1); and
- a strobe apparatus (17) comprising:
 - a strobe module (light emitter 19) capable of providing light;
 - a power supply (batteries 3) capable of supplying power to the strobe module;
 - a port (contact pins 2a) capable of connecting and transmitting power from the power supply to an external image-capturing apparatus (camera body 1);
 - a housing (flash housing 17), the strobe module (light emitter 19) and the power supply (batteries 3) being disposed in the housing; and
 - a transformer (power supply circuits) in the housing and electrically connected to the power supply, the strobe module, and the port, the transformer being capable of transforming an output voltage of the power supply into a standard voltage of the strobe module and outputting the standard voltage of the strobe module to the strobe module, the transformer being capable of transforming the output voltage of the power supply into a standard voltage of the image-capturing apparatus and outputting the standard voltage of the image-capturing apparatus to the image-capturing apparatus via the port (Miki teaches that the batteries are connected to a power supply circuits that supply electric power to the different components. The

power supply circuit must output the correct voltage corresponding to each component, thus requiring a transformer.).

Miki does not disclose:

wherein the strobe apparatus is configured to send an identifier to the external image-capturing apparatus, the identifier indicating a type of external strobe; and

wherein the external capture apparatus is configured to evaluate the identifier and to enter one of an image capture mode and an image display mode according to a validity of the identifier.

Takami teaches wherein the strobe apparatus (flash device 10) is configured to send an identifier to the external image-capturing apparatus, the identifier indicating a type of external strobe (control signal sent via terminals C₀ and C; col. 6, lines 1-6); and

wherein the external capture apparatus is configured to evaluate the identifier and to enter one of an image capture mode and an image display mode according to a validity of the identifier (camera determines type of flash is connected and performs corresponding task; col. 8, lines 28-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the control signals of Takami with the image capturing and external strobe device of Miki to obtain a stabilized voltage with high accuracy with a camera capable of operating with both a conventional and an improved flash device. (See col. 3, lines 30-45 of Takami.)

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Claim 54, Miki in view of Takami teaches the apparatus as in Claim 34, but does not expressly teach wherein the apparatus is configured to send data to the external image-capturing apparatus, the data indicating a quantity of power stored in the power supply.

However, Miki teaches wherein the CPU 42 of a detachable lens barrel 2, containing a secondary battery 44, monitors the capacity of the secondary battery and transmits this information to the body 1 (col. 5, lines 29-46).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the battery capacity monitoring function of the detachable lens barrel embodiment of Miki (Fig. 2) to the external strobe embodiment of Miki (Fig. 13) in view of Takami to indicate a warning when the remaining capacity of the secondary battery is scarce.

Claim 56, Takami teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to receive an acknowledgement of the identifier from the external image-capturing apparatus (col. 6, lines 1-6).

Claim 57, Takami teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to commence operation after receiving the acknowledgement (col. 8, lines 28-30).

Miki teaches supplying power to the external image-capturing apparatus (col. 9, lines 30-35 of Miki).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have commenced the power supplying of Miki with the

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acknowledgement of Takami to detect what the capabilities of the connected external flash device (col. 6, lines 1-6 of Takami).

Claim 58, Miki teaches a system in Fig. 13 comprising:

- a camera (1); and
- an external strobe (19) connectable to camera, the external strobe including a power supply (batteries 3),
- the external strobe configured to provide power from the power supply of the external strobe to the camera (col. 9, lines 29-35),
- wherein the external strobe is of at least one type of external strobe (inherent);

Another embodiment of Miki teaches:

- an external device configured to send first data to the camera, the first data indicating a quantity of power stored in the power supply of the external strobe (col. 5, lines 29-46).

Miki does not teach:

- wherein the external strobe is configured to send an identifier to the camera, the identifier indicating the at least one type of external strobe; and
- wherein the camera is configured to evaluate the identifier and to enter one of an image capture mode and an image display mode according to a validity of the identifier.

Takami teaches

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- wherein the external strobe is configured to send an identifier to the camera, the identifier indicating the at least one type of external strobe (control signal sent via terminals C₀ and C; col. 6, lines 1-6); and
- wherein the camera is configured to evaluate the identifier and to enter one of an image capture mode and an image display mode according to a validity of the identifier (col. 8, lines 28-30).

Claim 59, Miki teaches wherein the external strobe includes a signal port (contact pins of external device); wherein the camera includes a signal port (circuit board of camera); and wherein the external strobe configured to send the first data to the camera via a data signal sent from the signal port of the external strobe to the signal port of the camera (The broken lines in Fig. 13 indicate the connection path of the contact pins of an external device and the circuit board of the camera; col. 8, lines 31-42).

- Claim 61, Miki teaches wherein the external strobe is connected to the camera (Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 26-29).

Claim 63, the image-capturing system of Miki inherently includes the function of a camcorder (CCD 40 and CPU 42).

Claim 64, Miki teaches a system in Fig. 13 comprising:

- a camera (1);

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- an external strobe (17) connected to the camera (1),
- the external strobe including a power supply (batteries 3),
- the external strobe configured to provide power from the power supply of the external strobe to the camera, the external strobe being of at least one type of external strobe (col. 9, lines 29-35),

but does not teach:

- the external strobe configured to send an identifier to the camera, the identifier indicating the at least one type of external strobe;
- wherein the camera is configured to evaluate the identifier and to enter one of an image capture mode and an image display mode according to a validity of the identifier.

Takami teaches:

- the external strobe configured to send an identifier to the camera, the identifier indicating the at least one type of external strobe (col. 6, lines 1-6);
- wherein the camera is configured to evaluate the identifier and to enter one of an image capture mode and an image display mode according to a validity of the identifier (col. 8, lines 28-30).

Claim 65, Takami teaches wherein the external strobe is configured to receive an acknowledgement of the identifier from the camera (col. 6, lines 1-6).

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Claim 66, Takami teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to commence operation after receiving the acknowledgement (col. 8, lines 28-30).

Miki teaches supplying power to the external image-capturing apparatus (col. 9, lines 30-35 of Miki).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have commenced the power supplying of Miki with the acknowledgement of Takami to detect what the capabilities of the connected external flash device (col. 6, lines 1-6 of Takami).

Claim 67, Miki teaches wherein the external strobe is connected to the camera (Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 26-29).

6. Claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki in view of Takami, further in view of Reitmaa (US 6,424,843).

Claim 62, Miki in view of Takami teaches the system as in Claim 58, but does not expressly teach wherein the camera forms part of a mobile telephone.

Reitmaa teaches wherein a camera is part of a mobile telephone (Fig. 9a, 9b; col. 10, lines 5-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the mobile telephone of Reitmaa with the system of Miki in view of Takami in order to transmit a photograph to a user's talking

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partner for a purpose of video-conferencing or the like (See col. 1, lines 56-65 of Reitmaa).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHIA-WEI A. CHEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1707. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 - 17:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan V Ho/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622

/C. A. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2622